

Abaana Ministries

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

31 December 2024

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COMPANIES HOUSE

Company No: NI 33513

Trustees

Lynne Gibson
Noel Gordon
David Manning
Cynthia Madziva (appointed 9 Sep-24)
Archie McAvoy MBE (resigned 9 Sep-24)
Dr Gillian McBride
Martin Pitt
Sharon Slack
Jonathan Young

Chair

Jonathan Young

Secretary

Scott Baxter

CEO

Scott Baxter

Auditors

Johnston Kennedy DFK
Chartered Accountants
10 Pilots View
Heron Road
Belfast
BT3 9LE

Bankers

First Trust Bank
85 Main Street
Bangor BT20 4BA

Registered Office

78 High Street
Bangor
Co Down BT20 5AZ

HMRC Charity Registration Number

XR 23866

Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number

102174

Trustees' report

For year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2024 which have also been prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act 2006 purposes.

The financial statements comply with charity and company law, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Chair's report

We were encouraged to see one team from Northern Ireland travelling to Uganda to support and engage in the work. The Abanna Children's choir toured in the first half of 2024 – giving 66 performances and signing up 548 new child sponsorships. The choir was very ably led by Rodney and Jacqueline Garnham, supported by Sarah and Tabitha from Uganda and a dedicated number of tour chaperones, all of whom made a superb contribution to the success of the 2024 tour. It is recognised that the tour being safely and successfully fulfilled was down to the providence of God, who used the skills of Scott and the entire Abaana UK team and the recognition and appreciation of their mammoth efforts is both to be highly commended and greatly appreciated by the Board. The choir tours have been highly instrumental in injecting vital financial support for Abaana Uganda and provides a tangible portal for supporters in the UK and Ireland to view the delivery of money raised in these islands for vital projects and educational support on the ground in Uganda.

During the year we saw the completion of various construction projects in Uganda. In December we celebrated with the local community when we officially opened the new classroom block at St Mary's. New Life Homes continues to play a vital role in providing Street children with a stable background and an opportunity to rebuild their lives. In November we increased the enrolment to the maximum allowable.

Plans to re-locate to new premises in Main Street, Bangor have yet to materialise due to protracted boundary and legal issues. However, the momentum and desire to relocate remains and the Board continues to support the clear need for the move. Due to the financial challenges associated with the running of the charity shop in its current format, a decision was taken by the Board to temporarily cease trading in High Street, with the shop effectively closing in December 2024.

Dr Gillian McBride completed her tenure as Chair of Abaana during the year and proved to be an excellent leader during her 4 years in the role and continues to make a valued contribution to the Board. Gillian has been succeeded by Jon Young, who has been a Board member since 2016. During the year, the Board welcomed Cynthia Madziva who has joined Abaana all the way from London.

The Board has now approved the acquisition and implementation of a CRM system designed to provide an information platform that will deliver future stability, donor insights, improved systems integration and scalability for growth and improved communication with our donor base.

As a Board, we continue to recognise the enormous contribution to the work of Abaana made by staff, volunteers, and supporters across the UK and wider afield, as together we seek to bring hope to children living in poverty in Uganda.

Purposes and activities

Abaana Ministries' principal activity, as set out in The Memorandum and Articles of Association is the relief of poverty in the African continent, and the relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage and to educate the general public regarding poverty and the spiritual needs of these people and the advancement of the Christian faith. This is primarily achieved through building schools, sponsoring children to enable them to receive an education, providing food and basic medical care to children living on the streets, rescuing children from the streets, providing clean water supplies by building wells,

Trustees' report

For year ended 31 December 2024

installing pumps and supporting farming and microfinance projects in partner communities. The focus of our work has continued to be in the country of Uganda in the current year.

The overall vision of Abaana is to see the children of Africa have their needs met, their rights upheld and their hopes fulfilled.

In shaping the objectives for the year and planning our activities the Trustees have considered a number of key components, namely the financial resources available, prioritised projects in Uganda and the on-going needs of existing key programmes. The work of the charity is undertaken in partnership with locally based charitable organisations in the country of operation. In the past year activities have been undertaken in partnership with Abaana Ministries Uganda Ltd, a separate legal entity registered and operating in Uganda with its own governance, management and staffing arrangements although we provide support and advice through the provision of an independent Board member.

The strategies employed to achieve the charity's aims and objectives include regular production of management accounting information, oversight by Trustees of key deliverables and progress made, in raising funds for activities, overseeing building and other work on our projects, a detailed Grant Agreement process for funded programmes with specified outcomes and post-project delivery review.

Role of volunteers

The financial statements set out the results for the year but do not reflect the very considerable and vital support given to Abaana by volunteers. Locally, volunteers help to run our charity shop, fundraise and prepare mail outs. Overseas, they make up the teams which travel to Uganda and carry out work across our projects.

Achievements and performance

Review of activities:

New Life Choir

The Abaana New Life Choir arrived into Northern Ireland in January 2024 and after a period of rest, adjustment and preparation the first concert took place on 2nd February, with the final concert taking place on 9th June. The 20 children plus 10 chaperones participated in 66 concerts which were held throughout the island of Ireland, England and Scotland. The concerts provided the opportunity for audiences to enjoy an eclectic mix of Ugandan culture through music and dance, along with contemporary worship. The audience response to the concerts was tremendously encouraging, through their comments, participation and financial response. 548 additional sponsorships were added, with a number of significant individual donations to the on-going work in Uganda. We are indebted to the people who at each of our concert venues acted as hosts for the children and chaperones, who opened up their homes and made everyone feel so welcome. By all measures Choir 3 was a huge success. Thousands of people from various denominations and schools, in different regions were blessed through the ministry of the Choir and as a result more children in Uganda are being given the opportunity of an education.

The additional sponsors represent an annualised increase of £175,000 in sponsorship income. Unfortunately, for several reasons we do see donors unable to continue their financial support, which highlights the importance of running a successful choir.

Support of Schools

Over 7,000 children attend 17 Abaana-supported primary schools. The main source of income for these schools comes from sponsored kids, with an estimated three children paying lower subsidised rates for every one child sponsored at the school. Sponsorship income provides an assured funding stream for the schools to pay teachers and run the school.

Trustees' report

For year ended 31 December 2024

Child Sponsorship

During 2024, nearly 2,000 children received direct support under the Abaana Child Sponsorship Scheme. The children normally attend the 17 Abaana primary schools or various other secondary or vocational schools. Sponsorship, in addition to paying for a child's school fees, provides exercise books and stationery, as well as both a school uniform and basic medical care, when required.

Christmas Gift Scheme

The annual Christmas Gift Appeal was launched in October 2024 with informed social media posts, e-mails, and postal communication to Child Sponsorship donors. A record £72,683 was raised, an increase of 47% on the previous year. This was an exceptional amount of money that allowed Abaana to supply a basic Christmas pack to 1,836 children. The basic pack included a school bag, water bottle, sweets, cooking oil and various basic food items. The children were thrilled and extremely grateful to receive such a gift as they left school prior to the Christmas holidays. Needless to say, the pack benefited not only the children but their families.

New Life Homes Project and Street Reach

Throughout the year the number of boys at New Life Homes varied between 26-28, with some boys being re-settled back home and new boys being brought in. Settling boys into a new and stable environment can take time. With the structure of school, the routines of mealtimes, safe spaces for recreation and the care and support of the staff it is encouraging to see the boys prosper. Choir concerts in 2024 provided the opportunity to increase the donor base and this increase allowed Abaana to completely close the funding gap we had at New Life Homes. We continue to work with outside partners and government agencies to identify children who can benefit from a life away from the streets. Our aim is always to resettle the boys back into a supportive family environment where their needs are best met.

In November 2024 we announced the temporary closure of the Shop on High Street, Bangor. After a number of years of reducing revenue and increasing costs it was decided to re-consider our approach to the Abaana shop. The search for new premises will continue with the expectation of also finding suitable retail capability to re-launch the Abaana shop.

Projects

A number of projects and initiatives were completed across our various school sites in 2024:

- Water harvesting facilities at Lweza and Coo-Rom schools were upgraded to improve the availability of water,
- A weeklong camp in December for Choir 1 and Choir 2 proved to be a huge success and is something that may be repeated in future years.
- The school at Ayila was re-painted and necessary building repairs carried out.
- The 2nd year of the Northern Schools Farming project had allowed communities to plant, harvest and mill local crops and provided meals for the children at 4 schools.
- Zuri Girls project expanded its reach into 9 schools, extending health education and practical training in making sanitary products available to 500 children. This was the 3rd year of the project.

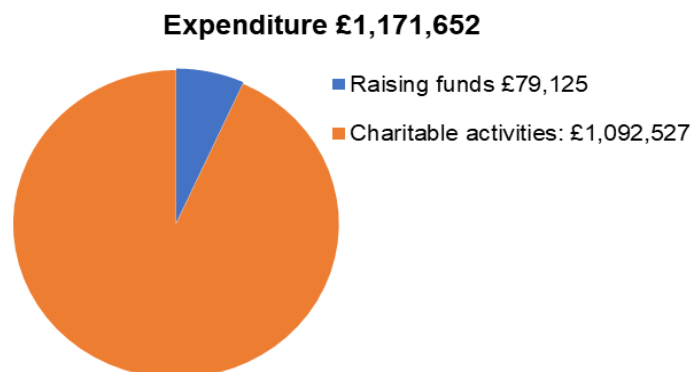
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For year ended 31 December 2024

Financial review

Income and expenditure

Income for the year increased to £1,550,508 (2023: £1,173,964). Total expenditure decreased to £1,171,652 (2023: £1,176,462) and gross expenditure on Charitable Activities increased to £1,092,527 (2023: £1,077,779). The amount of money spent on charitable activities represented 93.2% (2023: 91.6%) of total expenditure.



Expenditure on charitable activities includes governance costs of £5,560 (2023: £7,920).

Overall, there was a net increase in funds of £378,856 for the year (2023: net reduction in funds of £2,498). All restricted funds held by Abaana are spent on charitable activities to benefit children in Africa and where the funding is collected over more than one accounting year; individual funds will often show a surplus at the year end and the subsequent year show a deficit. The net position for each specific fund across multiple accounting periods will be zero. (i.e., any deficit is met from accumulated fund balances).

Detailed day to day management of the charity endeavours to keep the costs as low as possible without compromising the output and quality of the activities.

Investment powers and policy

The Trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of the charity have kept available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate on deposit, which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail price index. Steps were also taken to maximise the protection of funds as covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

Reserves

The Board of Trustees reviews the reserves annually. There are two categories of reserves: restricted and unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by donors. At the end of the year the total restricted funds were £871,954 (2023: £602,529).

Unrestricted funds at year end were £709,590 (2023: £600,159). It is the policy of the Board to ensure that the Charity has sufficient funds to cope with unexpected events. In particular, it aims to have an earmarked amount in designated funds to cover 6 months (2023: 6 months) running costs. In 2024 this is £150,000 (2023: £130,000).

There is also a designated property fund of £97,800 (2023: £105,000) representing the net book value of land and building (funds which are not readily available as cash), and a designated infrastructure fund of £350,000 (2023: £200,000) representing monies earmarked for premises and software development.

Trustees' report

For year ended 31 December 2024

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020/21 has underlined the need to be able to respond to unprecedented crises and the Board believe the current level of unrestricted general funds is both prudent and reasonable.

Plans for future periods

System Replacement

Board approval to replace the current CRM/Finance system was received in the last quarter of 2024. Engagement with potential implementation partners will commence with a view to selecting a partner on the basis of "best fit" and cost. Such an implementation will present a significant learning curve as we transition from the existing Omega system to a new system. Placing Abaana's processes on a new Platform will provide reliability, best practice, efficiencies and de-complex some of our current processes. This investment will future proof Abaana for the next 10 years.

New Premises

2024 was yet another year of frustration as we sought to navigate a path through the legalities and complexities of achieving mutual agreement on the purchase of new premises. Re-locating to Main Street, Bangor remains our preference, as it remains an excellent fit for both our Office and Retail requirements. However, we are actively looking at other potential sites located in the North Down area.

Choir 4

Normally Abaana aim to have a choir touring every 2 years. Due to the additional staff demands that are anticipated with the implementation of a replacement CRM/Finance system the decision was made to plan for the next choir in 2027. A choir arranged for 2026 would require significant planning in 2025.

Africa Teams

In 2024 we had 1 team travelling out to Uganda. In 2025 we plan to have 6 Teams going out to Uganda, commencing in April, through to August. Approximately 150 team members will travel and be involved in the various Team financed building and painting projects.

Organisational development

It is planned to review staffing levels in 2025 to ensure that staff levels appropriately match the increasing level of activity within Abaana. Also, opportunities to increase fundraising levels and improve engagement with new and current partners has been identified, along with a need to adequately resource the start of Choir 4 planning at the end of 2025.

Going Concern

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Organisation has adequate resources to continue for the foreseeable future as a going concern.

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year and since the year end are listed on page 1.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Abaana Ministries is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 16 January 1998 and updated on 17 June 2015.

Appointment of Trustees

Abaana has a policy of developing its Board membership to ensure a wide range of professional expertise. Where potential candidates for Board membership are identified, informal discussions are held with the Chairperson, followed by attendance in an observer capacity at several Board meetings. If appointment is subsequently recommended by the existing Trustees, the candidate is formally invited to join the Board.

Trustees' report

For year ended 31 December 2024

Trustee induction and training

Through membership of the Board, Trustees have oversight and develop their knowledge of all of Abaana's key activities. Trustees also meet several times a year with Abaana staff. Training for Trustees is sourced as required.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees is continuing to enhance its ways of working, to best fit the charity as it continues to operate in a challenging economy. The overall range of key skills available to the Charity through its Trustees will help to further develop the overall governance and management of the charity.

Relationship with other charities

A separate company exists in Uganda – 'Abaana Ministries, Uganda'. This company, registered in Uganda is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board is made up of local professionals. Scott Baxter (Abaana Ministries Northern Ireland CEO and Company Secretary) also sits on the Board as an independent director. Abaana Ministries Uganda receives funding from Abaana Ministries, Northern Ireland and carries out the various project activities and expenditure in line with formal grant agreements authorised by Abaana Ministries, Northern Ireland to support its charitable objectives.

The Board of Directors and management of Abaana Ministries, Uganda continue to report on the outcomes of supported projects regularly to ensure grant funding is being properly spent in line with the funding agreements and in accordance with our charitable objectives. The CEO aims to visit the Ugandan operations at least twice each year, to review the physical projects which have been funded by Northern Ireland, as well as meeting with the Board of Directors of Abaana Uganda to monitor and review agreed local activity. In accordance with good governance arrangements a new Memorandum of Understanding between Abaana Ministries UK and Abaana Ministries Uganda was signed in 2021 which sets out the operation of the partnership and the responsibilities of each in accordance with local legislative requirements.

Abaana Ministries also has a close working relationship with Fields of Life, a charity which shares Abaana Ministries' passion for Africa – some of Abaana Ministries' earliest child sponsorships continue to be administered by Fields of Life. The charity is also seeking to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with this partner organisation although this work is still at the preliminary stage.

Pay policy for senior staff

The Board of Directors, who are the Charity's Trustees, have overall oversight of the activities of the charity. This includes responsibility for considering, and where relevant, approving staff terms and conditions of employment. Senior staff comprises the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All staff posts are based on NJC pay scales. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration during the year.

Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 9 to the accounts.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for Abaana Ministries' system of internal control. Such a system can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against errors or fraud.

The key controls used by the charity include:

- Formal agendas for Board meetings and Minutes taken;
- Regular Board meetings;
- Strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- Established organisational structure and lines of reporting;

Trustees' report

For year ended 31 December 2024

- Formal written policies;
- Clear authorisation and approval levels;
- Formal grant agreements.

Abaana maintains a detailed Risk Register, which outlines the key risks to the organisation and specific actions identified to mitigate those risks. The risk register is subject to annual review by the Board of Trustees and more frequently, if required. Key risks identified (together with mitigation measures) include:

- Reputational damage due to project failure (full technical/financial assessments pre-project; full post-completion review);
- Loss of income due to economic climate (focus on key fundraising activities);
- Interruption of activities (data backed up using Cloud technology; adequate insurance provision; building security);
- Death/serious injury of team member in Africa (risk assessments for teams; training of staff, team leaders/members; adequate insurance provision).

Public benefit reporting

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit reporting on the Charity's benefits and achievements.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity Trustees (who are also the directors of Abaana Ministries for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial position at the end of that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- (1) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- (2) make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- (3) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- (4) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees' report

For year ended 31 December 2024

Statement as to disclosure to our auditors

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' Annual Report:

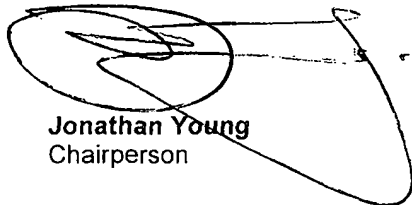
- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the organisation's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees, having made enquiries of fellow directors and the organisation's auditor that they ought to have individually made, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

Johnston Kennedy DFK Ltd have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.



Jonathan Young
Chairperson

Date: 09/06/2025

Independent auditors' report

**To the members of Abaana Ministries
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Christian Fellowship Church (the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of Abaana Ministries

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the directors' report, which includes the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the directors, who are also the trustees of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of Abaana Ministries

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

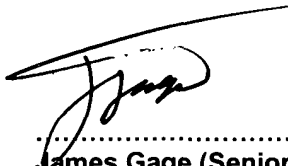
We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent auditors' report

**To the members of Abaana Ministries
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

This report is made solely to the charity members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....
James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Johnston Kennedy DFK
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
10 Pilots View
Heron Road
Belfast
BT3 9LE

Date: 9/6/2025

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2024

		<i>Unrestricted Funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total Funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted Funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total Funds 2023 £</i>
	<i>Note</i>						
Income:							
Donations and legacies	4	497,232	1,005,595	1,502,827	251,901	827,879	1,079,780
<i>Income from other trading activities:</i>							
Shop Income		15,526	-	15,526	17,248	-	17,248
Investment income	5	32,155	-	32,155	22,987	-	22,987
Other income		-	-	-	-	53,949	53,949
Total income		<u>544,913</u>	<u>1,005,595</u>	<u>1,550,508</u>	<u>292,136</u>	<u>881,828</u>	<u>1,173,964</u>
Expenditure:							
Costs of raising funds	6	77,389	1,736	79,125	95,904	2,779	98,683
Expenditure on charitable activities	7	208,529	883,998	1,092,527	164,568	913,211	1,077,779
Total expenditure		<u>285,918</u>	<u>885,734</u>	<u>1,171,652</u>	<u>260,472</u>	<u>915,990</u>	<u>1,176,462</u>
Net income (expenditure) for the year before transfers		<u>258,995</u>	<u>119,861</u>	<u>378,856</u>	<u>31,664</u>	<u>(34,162)</u>	<u>(2,498)</u>
Transfers between funds	15	(149,564)	149,564	-	(23,223)	23,223	-
Net movement in funds		<u>109,431</u>	<u>269,425</u>	<u>378,856</u>	<u>8,441</u>	<u>(10,939)</u>	<u>(2,498)</u>
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		600,159	602,529	1,202,688	591,718	613,468	1,205,186
Total funds carried forward	15	<u>709,590</u>	<u>871,954</u>	<u>1,581,544</u>	<u>600,159</u>	<u>602,529</u>	<u>1,202,688</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

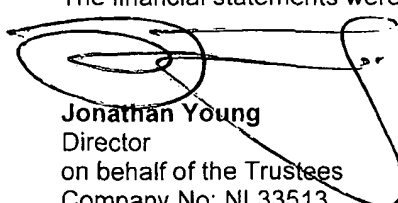
at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	109,470	115,866
Current assets			
Debtors	13	122,821	208,516
Investments and cash at bank and in hand		1,464,198	989,877
		<u>1,587,019</u>	<u>1,198,393</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(114,945)</u>	<u>(111,571)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,472,074</u>	<u>1,086,822</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,581,544</u>	<u>1,202,688</u>
Net assets		<u>1,581,544</u>	<u>1,202,688</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	15	709,590	600,159
Restricted funds	15	871,954	602,529
Total charity funds		<u>1,581,544</u>	<u>1,202,688</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board and signed on its behalf:


Jonathan Young
Director
on behalf of the Trustees
Company No: NI 33513

Date: 09/06/2025

Statement of cashflows

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash received in operating activities	18	442,166	(77,055)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		32,155	22,987
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		-	(16,000)
Net cash flow from investing activities		32,155	6,987
Net cash flow from financing activities		-	-
(Decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		474,321	(70,068)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		989,877	1,059,945
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		1,464,198	989,877

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(i) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(ii) Preparation of the accounts on the going concern basis

The trustees have assessed the reserves and the post year end performance of the charity and are content that it continues to be a going concern.

(iii) Income

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- Any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- There is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- The amount can be measured reliably.

(iv) Donated goods and services

Clothing and other items donated for resale through the charity's shop or for distribution as part of a charitable activity are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised. Refer to the Trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

(v) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

(vi) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.

General funds may be transferred to designated funds where Trustees wish to use these funds for a specific purpose. Such funds may be transferred back to general funds once the criteria for the designation have been met or are no longer applicable.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of the appeal.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

(vii) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of operating the charity's shop, promotional and event costs along with the associated support costs;
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(viii) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

(ix) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Land and buildings	2% straight line
Equipment, furniture and fittings	25% straight line
Motor Vehicles	25% straight line

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

(x) Debtors

Other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

(xi) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

(xii) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

(xiii) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are normally initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the carrying value plus accrued interest less repayments. The financing charge to expenditure is at a constant rate calculated using the effective interest method.

(xiv) Pensions

The company enrolls staff into a defined contribution pension scheme (National Employment Savings Trust). Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

(xv) Taxation

The company is a registered charity and the charitable tax exemptions are therefore being claimed to the extent that income and/or gains are applicable and applied to charitable purposes only. These exemptions will remain in place as long as income and expenditure are applied to charitable purposes only.

(xvi) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The trustees consider that there are no material areas of judgement or estimation uncertainty.

2. Status

The company has obtained charitable status with HMRC, reference number XR 23866 and is limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The company is also registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, reference number 102174.

3. Net income (expenditure) for the year

	2024 £	2023 £
<i>This is stated after charging:</i>		
Depreciation	6,396	2,734
Auditors' remuneration	3,360	3,432
<i>and after crediting:</i>		
Interest receivable	32,155	22,987

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Child sponsorship	65,501	710,626	776,127	637,191
Africa teams	3,151	97,284	100,435	97,086
Africa team projects	1,422	27,070	28,492	48,947
Choir	172,555	22,396	194,951	10,762
Groups and corporate funding	5,536	813	6,349	9,724
Donations and appeals	242,611	132,824	375,435	266,222
Other fundraising events	5,055	12,650	17,705	8,126
Other income	1,401	1,932	3,333	1,722
Total income from donations and legacies	497,232	1,005,595	1,502,827	1,079,780

Of the £1,079,780 received by the charity in 2023, £251,901 was unrestricted funds and £827,879 was restricted funds.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not measured in the accounts.

5. Investment income

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

6. Costs of raising funds

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Advertising and promotional material		3,012	1,010	4,022	5,005
Events		-	-	-	-
Other fundraising costs		1,815	102	1,917	2,540
Shop costs		22,030	-	22,030	18,923
Support costs allocated to shop	8	10,565	297	10,862	9,895
Support costs allocated to raising funds	8	39,967	327	40,294	62,320
Total costs of raising funds		77,389	1,736	79,125	98,683

Of the £98,683 paid by the charity in 2023, £95,904 was unrestricted funds and £2,779 was restricted funds.

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Child sponsorship		-	631,576	631,576	535,992
Educational projects		-	19,669	19,669	131,942
Africa teams		993	62,296	63,289	96,389
Children at risk		-	90,877	90,877	72,561
Medical projects		-	-	-	330
Choir		-	66,160	66,160	72,696
Other projects		-	-	-	1,510
Support costs allocated to activities	8	207,536	13,420	220,956	166,359
Total expenditure on charitable activities		208,529	883,998	1,092,527	1,077,779

Of the £1,077,779 paid by the charity in 2023, £164,568 was unrestricted funds and £913,211 was restricted funds.

8. Analysis of governance and support costs

The charity initially identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Having identified its governance costs, the remaining support costs together with the governance costs are apportioned between the costs of raising funds and charitable activities undertaken (see notes 6 and 7) in the year. Refer to the table below for the basis for apportionment and the analysis of support and governance costs.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	<i>Basis of allocation</i>	<i>Shop £</i>	<i>Raising Funds £</i>	<i>Charitable Activities £</i>	<i>Total 2024 £</i>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Premises costs	<i>Staff time</i>	311	343	1,742	2,396	2,007
Staff costs	<i>Staff cost</i>	4,250	33,009	178,392	215,651	183,319
General office costs	<i>Staff time</i>	6,301	6,942	35,262	48,505	45,328
Audit fees	<i>Governance</i>	-	-	4,432	4,432	3,432
Accountancy fees	<i>Governance</i>	-	-	1,080	1,080	4,320
Legal and other professional fees	<i>Governance</i>	-	-	48	48	168
Total		<u>10,862</u>	<u>40,294</u>	<u>220,956</u>	<u>272,112</u>	<u>238,574</u>

9. Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	<i>2024 £</i>	<i>2023 £</i>
Salary costs	209,050	180,112
Social security costs	12,586	9,652
Pension costs	10,035	8,157
	<u>231,671</u>	<u>197,921</u>

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

The charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2023: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees, the Chair, the CEO and the Assistant Directors. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £75,638 (2023: £74,037). No employee received emoluments exceeding £60,000.

10. Staff numbers

	<i>2024 Number</i>	<i>2023 Number</i>
Average monthly number of full-time equivalents employed by the company during the year:	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

11. Related party transactions

None of the Trustees receive remuneration from the charity. A company of which one of the Trustees is a Director received £16,218 (2023: £9,677) for the supply of mailing and postage services to Abaana during the year. No other Trustee received any other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a Trustee or senior manager of the charity with organisations the charity works with must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party.

A separate company exists in Uganda — 'Abaana Ministries, Uganda'. This company, registered in Uganda is governed by a Committee of Management consisting of local professionals. Scott Baxter (Abaana Ministries Northern Ireland CEO and Company Secretary) also sits on the Committee as the 'International Director'.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Abaana Ministries Uganda receives funding from Abaana Ministries, Northern Ireland and carries out the various projects' activities and expenditure in line with formal agreements authorised by Scott Baxter as the CEO of Abaana Ministries, Northern Ireland. Funding for projects is forwarded to Abaana Uganda throughout the financial year. Total funding transferred to Abaana Ministries Uganda was £744,000 (2023: £855,000).

Abaana Ministries also has a close relationship with Fields of Life, a charity which shares Abaana Ministries' passion for Africa — some of Abaana Ministries' earliest child sponsorships continue to be administered by Fields of Life. Payments to Fields of Life for these sponsorships amounted to £2,904 (2023: £3,420).

12. Tangible fixed assets

	<i>Land and Buildings</i> £	<i>Equipment Furniture and Fittings</i> £	<i>Motor Vehicles</i> £	<i>Total</i> £
<i>Cost</i>				
Balance at 1 January 2024	120,000	16,205	20,400	156,605
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(4,400)	(4,400)
Balance at 31 December 2024	120,000	16,205	16,000	152,205
<i>Accumulated Depreciation</i>				
Balance at 1 January 2024	19,800	16,205	4,734	40,739
Charge for the year	2,400	-	3,996	6,396
Disposals	-	-	(4,400)	(4,400)
Balance at 31 December 2024	22,200	16,205	4,330	42,735
Net book value at 31 December 2024	97,800	-	11,670	109,470
Net book value at 31 December 2023	100,200	-	15,666	115,866

The property at 78 High Street, Bangor, Co Down, BT20 5AZ, was most recently revalued on 22 May 2023 by Independent Property Estates, 98-100 High Street, Bangor, BT20 4AG at £99,950.

13. Debtors and prepayments

	2024 £	2023 £
Gift aid receivable	76,552	130,917
Income receivable	924	29,672
Prepayments	45,345	47,927
	122,821	208,516

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other accruals	114,945	111,571
	114,945	111,571

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

15. Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 31/12/23 £	Incoming Funds £	Amounts Expended £	Net Transfers £	Balance at 31/12/24 £
General fund	124,828	323,655	(263,324)	(96,560)	88,599
Major donor	-	13,500	-	-	13,500
Choir 3 tour income	-	170,167	-	(160,910)	9,257
Shop	1,057	15,526	(22,584)	6,435	434
Partners	-	21,037	-	(21,037)	-
Cards	-	973	(10)	(963)	-
Anniversary fund	-	55	-	(55)	-
Designated funds	474,274	-	-	123,526	597,800
	600,159	544,913	(285,918)	(149,564)	709,590

Name of unrestricted Fund Description, nature and purposes of fund

General fund	Free reserves after allowing for all designated funds
Other unrestricted funds	Funds available for use at the discretion of the Trustees
Designated fund	Funds earmarked by the Trustees for the following specific purposes:

	Balance at 31/12/23 £	Incoming Funds £	Amounts Expended £	Net Transfers £	Balance at 31/12/24 £
<u>Designated funds</u>					
Running costs (1)	130,000	-	-	20,000	150,000
Designated Africa Development	14,274	-	-	(14,274)	-
Designated Choir 3	25,000	-	-	(25,000)	-
Designated Property	105,000	-	-	(7,200)	97,800
Designated Infrastructure	200,000	-	-	150,000	350,000
	474,274	-	-	123,526	597,800

(1) Running costs: Earmarked amount which covers approximately 6 months running costs (2023: 6 months)

Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 31/12/23 £	Incoming Funds £	Amounts Expended £	Net Transfers £	Balance at 31/12/24 £
Africa team funds	16,486	97,284	(52,252)	(1,089)	60,429
Africa team projects	2,997	27,070	(10,044)	(75)	19,948
Child sponsorship	531,019	709,977	(632,688)	13,080	621,388
Choir funds	(47,998)	22,218	(77,920)	123,146	19,446
Health funds	7,247	2,963	(2,794)	113	7,529
School funds	24,277	53,418	(7,023)	1,859	72,531
Street children funds	37,412	69,627	(75,328)	(2,236)	29,475
Other funds	31,089	23,038	(27,685)	14,766	41,208
	602,529	1,005,595	(885,734)	149,564	871,954

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Restricted funds have been grouped in accordance with the expenditure category to which they relate. All restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of the appeal.

16. Income attributed to unrestricted funds.

Child Sponsorship Fund:

Abaana maintains a commitment to each donor that at least 95% of their child sponsorship donation is used directly in Uganda for Child Sponsorship Activities. In cases when child sponsorship donors contribute an additional voluntary amount towards the administration and running costs of Abaana, these additional voluntary donations are recorded as unrestricted income upon receipt. Where Gift Aid is applicable, it is attributed to UK Support

Africa teams:

Direct team payments are recorded within the appropriate restricted team fund. Preagreed team support costs are recorded as unrestricted income.

For all other restricted funds:

In order to cover project monitoring and administrative support costs, between 0% and 10% of receipts on all other restricted funds is recognised as unrestricted income on the date of receipt.

The following principles are applied when calculating the income attributed to unrestricted funds:

- A rate of 0-5% is applied if project is undersubscribed;
- A rate of 5% is applied to large funding projects;
- In all other cases a rate of 10% is applied as standard.

17. Summary of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Fixed assets	109,470	-	109,470
Current assets	605,946	981,073	1,587,019
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(5,826)	(109,119)	(114,945)
Net assets	709,590	871,954	1,581,544

18. Reconciliation of net cash movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net (deficit) / surplus in funds	378,856	(2,498)
Depreciation charge	6,396	2,734
Interest income shown in investing activities	(32,155)	(22,987)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	85,695	(63,915)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	3,374	9,611
Net cash (expenditure on) / received from operating activities	442,166	(77,055)